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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,791	10/22/2003	Alan R. Hirsch	INS-31875(1)	5622
22202 7590 01/07/2009 WHYTE HIRSCHBOECK DUDEK S C INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 555 EAST WELLS STREET, SUITE 1900 MILWAUKEE, WI 53202				
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FLOOD, MICHELE C				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/690,791

Applicant(s)

ALAN R. HIRSCH

Examiner

Michele Flood

Art Unit

1655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9, 26, 27, 31-33 and 42-47 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-9, 27 and 31-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 26 and 42-47 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment is made of the receipt and entry of the amendment filed on September 29, 2008 with the cancellation of Claim 41.

Claims 1-4, 26 and 42-47 are under examination.

Response to Arguments

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-4, 26 and 42-47, as amended, remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Applicant's main argument is directed to the idea that the specifications provides sufficient supporting disclosure, both through the descriptive disclosure and experimental example showing guidance and what is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, to teach one of skill in the art how to make and use the invention as broadly as it is claimed. For instance, Applicant argues that the specification provides adequate written description for the genus of an 'oriental spice' odorant, as well as an example of a 'hedonically positive mixture of a floral odorant and a spice odorant'.

Applicant also argues that one of skill in the art would understand the terms recited in the claims; and, thereby would understand how to readily ascertain sources of the recited odorants because the terms are art recognized. Applicant further argues that the claims are limited to mixtures of certain floral odorants that are hedonically positive and thereby one of ordinary skill in the art would readily identify and formulate mixtures of suitable odorants that have the characteristics of the recited odorants to achieve the desired effect to alter the inhaling individual's perception of body weight without undue experimentation. Additionally, Applicant argues that methods for screening odorants for effectiveness have been discussed. Applicant argues case law. Applicant urges withdrawal of the rejection because satisfaction of the enablement requirement has been met by Applicant. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but found unpersuasive. Therefore, the rejection remains the same for the reason set forth in the previous Office action, but slightly altered to address Applicant's amendment to the claims, and repeated immediately below.

The claims are directed to a method of modifying perception of body weight comprising administering to a first person for inhalation an effective amount of a composition that is a mixture of a floral odorant and a spice odorant in effective amounts such that an estimate by the first person of the body weight of a second person having a body mass index (BMI) of about 25 or greater is about 5-10% less than actual body weight of said second person and less than an estimate of the body weight of said second person by the first person before inhalation of the composition, wherein the floral odorant is selected from the group consisting of jasmine, lilac, lily of the valley,

magnolia, rose, lavender, geranium, hyacinth, orange blossom, apple blossom and carnation, and the spice odorant is selected from the group consisting of cinnamon, ginger, cloves, nutmeg and oriental spice. The claims are further drawn to the method of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a suprathreshold but non-irritant concentration of the floral odorant and the spice odorant; wherein administering the composition comprises dispensing the composition from a dispensing device; wherein administering the composition comprises applying the composition onto the first person; wherein the floral odorant is a mixture of floral odorants and the spice odorant is a mixture of spice odorants; further comprising, prior to administering the composition, testing olfactory ability of the first person. The claims are further drawn to the method of Claims 42, wherein testing the olfactory ability of the first person comprises administering a forced-choice, scratch-and-sniff identification test. The claims are further drawn to the method of Claim 1, further comprising, prior to administering the compositions, testing olfactory threshold of the first person. The claims are further drawn to the method of Claims 42, wherein testing the olfactory ability of the first person comprises administering a forced-choice, scratch-and-sniff identification test. The claims are further drawn to the method of Claim 44, wherein testing the olfactory threshold of the first person comprising administering a series of dilutions of an odorant substance in ascending order. The claims are further drawn to the method of Claim 45, wherein the odorant substance is selected from the group consisting of butyl alcohol, phenylethyl alcohol and pyridine. The claims are further drawn to the method of Claim 1, further comprising, prior to administering the composition, asking the first person to

identify the mixture of the floral odorant and the spice odorant as either hedonically positive or hedonically negative.

The factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required are summarized in *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (a) the breadth of the claims; (b) the nature of the invention; (c) the state of the prior art; (d) the level of one of ordinary skill in the art; (f) the amount of direction provided by the inventor; (g) the existence of working examples; and (h) the quantity of experimentation added to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure. While all of these factors are considered, a sufficient number are discussed below so as to create a *prima facie* case.

Nature of the Invention. The claims are drawn to a method of modifying perception of body weight comprising administering to a first person for inhalation an effective amount of a composition that is a mixture of a floral odorant and a spice odorant in effective amounts such that an estimate by the first person of the body weight of a second person having a body mass index (BMI) of about 25 or greater is about 5-10% less than actual body weight of said second person and less than an estimate of the body weight of said second person by the first person before inhalation of the composition, wherein the floral odorant is selected from the group consisting of jasmine, lilac, lily of the valley, magnolia, rose, lavender, geranium, hyacinth, orange blossom, apple blossom and carnation, and the spice odorant is selected from the group consisting of cinnamon, ginger, cloves, nutmeg and oriental spice and oriental spice.

Breadth of the Claims. The claims are broad in that they are directed to a method of modifying perception of body weight in any and all subjects (regardless of the gender, age, sexual proclivity or sexual preference or ethnic background of the first person) comprising administering to a first person for inhalation an effective amount of a composition that is a mixture of a floral odorant and a spice odorant in effective amounts such that an estimate by the first person of the body weight of a second person having a body mass index (BMI) of about 25 or greater is about 5-10% less than actual body weight of said second person and less than an estimate of the body weight of said second person by the first person before inhalation of the composition, wherein the floral odorant is selected from the group consisting of jasmine, lilac, lily of the valley, magnolia, rose, lavender, geranium, hyacinth, orange blossom, apple blossom and carnation, and the spice odorant is selected from the group consisting of cinnamon, ginger, cloves, nutmeg and oriental spice. The complex nature of the subject matter of the invention is clearly exacerbated by the breadth of the claims.

Guidance of the Specification and Existence of Working Examples. To determine the efficacy of a mixture of a floral odorant and a spice odorant to induce a change in men's perception of body weight of a female individual, Applicant conducted a study wherein a 5'9", 245 lb., white, cosmetic saleswoman with a body mass index (BMI) of 36.2 was used as a test model (first person). One hundred ninety-nine (199) male models were used as observers (second person). The specification discloses that the adult male volunteers surveyed were aged 12 to 61. Ninety-three percent (n=186) were white, 2 percent (n=4) were African-American descent, 3 percent (n=6) were

Hispanic descent, and 1.5 percent (n=3) were Asian descent. The three odorants used in the test study (*i.e.*, Odorant #1 was a citrus and floral odorant mixture; Odorant #2 was a mixture of sweet pea and lily of the valley odorants; and, Odorant #3 was a mixture of floral and spice odorants) were judged to be hedonically positive by a panel at the Smell & Taste Treatment and Research Foundation, Chicago, Illinois. The specification further discloses application of the three odorants over a period of three consecutive days to the model at non-irritant, suprathreshold levels and in an amount that was predetermined to be adequate for normosmics to be able to detect the applied odorant at a non-irritant, suprathreshold level. The male volunteers gave estimations of the model's body weight with and without application of the three odorants; and, then the males were queried on their detection and hedonics of each of the Odorants 1-3. Applicant discloses statistically analyzing the gathered data for significance ($p < 0.05$).

In a test pilot study conducted prior to the test study, Applicant discloses applying a lavender odorant, a pumpkin pie odorant, and cinnamon odorant individually in three different sessions to a woman subject who had a BMI of 23.0 as opposed to a BMI of 36.2 of the model in the test study. Applicant discloses, "Despite the hedonically positive nature of the three odorants (*i.e.*, lavender, pumpkin pie, cinnamon), none of the three odorants provided a weight-reducing effect on the perception of a group of male observers. The men judged the model not to weigh any less in the presence of the three odorants that were tested."

In the results, the specification emphasizes that the pilot study and the test study only involved men's estimation of weight rather than women's on the basis that weight is

a correlate of attractiveness in women, not men: "Weight inversely correlates with the level of attractiveness more often when men look at women than when women look at men. Also, 'societies' value women's physical attractiveness more because physical attractiveness represents a more salient way of evaluating women's [social] role fulfillment than it does for men [citation omitted]". From the results of the pilot study, Applicant concludes that the effect of the odorant/odorant mixture can be less pronounced in instances where an individual has a low body weight and is already perceived as being at a maximal attractive or ideal weight as opposed to an individual having a BMI of 36.2 (such as the model used in the test study). While Applicant theorizes that the instantly claimed invention is more effective in altering perception of an individuals whose BMI is greater than 25.0 (the medically defined threshold for being overweight), nowhere in the specification as originally filed does Applicant provide either a showing or data therefrom to substantiate the alleged theory. The Office notes that the pilot study did not involve either a female or a male model having a BMI greater than 25. The Office further notes that the specification fails to disclose why Applicant designates the three odorants used in the pilot study as being "hedonically positive in nature".

Of most interest, the specification discloses, "The test study demonstrated that of the three odorant mixtures tested, only the use of a floral-spice odorant mixture had a specific effect and provided a perceived reduction of weight. In the test study, among the 50 males tested with the woman model wearing the odorant mixture of floral and spice odorants (Odorant #3), there was noted a significantly reduced perception of

weight ($p=0.02$) compared to the control trials. This was a reduction of perceived weight by 4.01 pounds (a 2.4% reduction) as compared to the “no odor” control group in which the averaged perceived weight by 49 males was 172.8 pounds. Among the 100 males tested, neither the citrus-floral odorant mixture (Odorant #1) nor the sweet pea and lily of the valley odorant mixture (Odorant #2) were effective in reducing perception of weight ($p=0.1$, 0.01).

In those males who perceived Odorant #3 to be hedonically positive ($n=16$), the effect of the odorant on perceived weight of the model was even more substantial at 160.8 pounds (averaged), which was 12 pounds less than the actual weight measurement ($p=0.02$). The inhalation by those test subjects of the floral-spice odorant mixture applied to the model resulted in a 7% reduction in perceived weight ($p=0.02$) compared to the no odor control subjects.”

While Applicant argues that sufficient supporting disclosure, both through the working example and descriptive discussion, teach those of ordinary skill in the art how to make and use the invention as broadly as it is claimed, and show that the odorant mixtures are useful in providing the recited effect; and, while Applicant further argues that the present disclosure includes a working example that is more than adequate to enable one of ordinary skill in this art area to carry out the invention commensurate with the scope of claims, as required under Section 112(1), without undue experimentation, given the foregoing Applicant’s arguments after full consideration have been found unpersuasive for the following reasons. Firstly, Applicant has not demonstrated or specifically disclosed which floral odorant or floral odorants and which spice odorant or

spice odorants can be used to provide the making of a composition comprising a hedonically positive mixture of a floral odorant(s) and a spice odorant(s) such when administered in effective amounts to a first person for inhalation that the first person would perceive the body weight of the second person to be about 5-10% less than the actual body weight of the second person. For instance, while the specification discloses examples of floral odorants (such as those recited in the Markush group of currently amended Claim 1) and spice odorants (such as those recited in the Markush group of currently amended Claim 1), nowhere in the specification does Applicant disclose, even by the example of the disclosed Odorant #3, which odorants could be used to produce a composition comprising a hedonically mixture of a floral odorant and a spice odorant to cause the claim-designated functional weight for modifying perception of body weight or what criteria or variables to consider to arrive at such a composition. The specification merely describes a hedonically positive odorant or odorant mixture as one to which an individual has a pleasant or positive reaction to its scent. In fact, the specification fails to provide any example of "a hedonically positive mixture of a floral odorant and a spice odorant" detailing the actual ingredients contained therein to provide the functional effect for modifying perception of body weight. Moreover, the Office notes that nowhere in the specification does Applicant describe how the Smell & Taste Treatment and Research Foundation determined the positive hedonics of Odorant #3 or what was the gender, age, sexual proclivity or sexual preference or ethnic background of the panel determining the hedonics of the odorants or odorant mixtures used in either the pilot test or test study or whether any of the odorants or odorant mixtures provided a modifying

perception of body weight in the panel members. Furthermore, it is noted that the odorants are not limited to naturally occurring odorants or synthetic versions of natural occurring versions of the claim-designated floral and spice odorants. Given the variety of the claim-designated floral odorants and the claim-designated spice odorants, the skilled artisan could not reasonably extrapolate those odorants which could be mixed or the amounts of the individual floral odorants and individual spice odorants which could be mixed to produce a composition comprising a hedonically positive mixture such when administered in effective amounts could to cause a modification of body weight given such limited guidance by the specification.

Applicant urges that the results of the test study demonstrate that only administration of floral-spice odorant mixture had a specific effect and provided a perceived reduction weight. However, the Office notes that inconsistencies in the data presented in the specification as originally filed contradicts Applicant's assertion that the instantly claimed method indeed works. For example, at the outset of a three-day study (conducted in consecutive days), Applicant discloses that 199 adult male volunteers were surveyed. However, Applicant reports data from only 50 men tested with the woman wearing the odorant with the mixture of floral and spice odorants. Applicant does not account for the other 49 adult male volunteers participating in the survey at least at the outset of the test study (that is, whether data was obtained or not obtained or deemed unsuitable for various unknown reasons), assuming that the testing of Odorants #1 and #2 were equally divided among 100 adult male volunteers. For instance, Applicant readily discloses that among 100 males tested with either the citrus-

floral mixtures (Odorant #1) or the sweet pea and lily of the valley odorant mixture (Odorant #2) did not result in reducing perception of weight. Since it is unclear from the specification as to what data or observations were gathered from the unmentioned remaining male volunteers, it is uncertain as to whether the statistical analysis provided by Applicant is sound. Regardless of whether the unmentioned 49 male volunteers participated in the test study in its entirety or whether data or observations were made and was intentionally omitted or unintentionally omitted, the statistical analysis presented in the instant disclosure still warrants question because of the following:

"In the test study, among the 50 males tested with the woman model wearing the odorant mixture of floral and spice odorants (Odorant #3), there was noted a significantly reduced perception of weight ($p=0.02$) compared to the control trials. This was a reduction of perceived weight by 4.01 pounds (a 2.4% reduction) as compared to the "no odor" control group in which the averaged perceived weight by 49 males was 172.8 pounds. [text omitted] In those males who perceived Odorant #3 to be hedonically positive ($n=16$), the effect of the odorant on perceived weight of the model was even more substantial at 160.8 pounds (averaged), which was 12 pounds less than the actual weight measurement ($p=0.02$). The inhalation by those test subjects of the floral-spice odorant mixture applied to the model resulted in a 7% reduction in perceived weight ($p=0.02$) compared to the no odor control subjects."

The Office notes that the woman model used in the test study of the three odorant/odorant mixtures weighed 245 lbs. Nonetheless, among the 50 males tested with the woman model wearing Odorant #3, the males tested perceived her weight to be only 4.1 pounds less as compared to the "no odor" control group. In other words, the males tested with the woman wearing Odorant #3 perceived the model's body weight to be 168.8 pounds, whereas the averaged perceived weight of the "no odor" male control group perceived the model's weight to be 172.8 pounds, and whereas those males who perceived Odorant #3 to be hedonically positive ($n=16$) perceived weight of the model

was 160.8 pounds. Given that no data was provided by Applicant to demonstrate what was the tested males perception of the body weight of the woman model wearing either Odorant #1 or Odorant #2, it is unclear as to whether there was indeed a significant difference achieved among the three tested odorants because the data presented in the specification fails to explain why the tested Odorant #3 group estimated the weight of a woman weighing 245 pounds as being only 4.1 pounds less than the "no odor" control group. Moreover, it is unclear from Applicant's disclosure whether the pilot study included the same male volunteers used in the test study. The Office notes that Applicant emphasizes that the males in the pilot study did not underestimate the body weight of the woman model having a BMI of less than 25, whereas the males in the test pilot study radically underestimated the weight of the model having a BMI of 36.2. In other words, it is unclear from Applicant's disclosure what was the ability of the men tested with the three odorant/odorant mixtures to properly estimate the weight of an overweight woman or whether other factors other than the influence of the floral-spice odorant mixture played a role in the men's gross underestimation of the apparently obese woman, given that the men had observed the same female model having the same approximate weight over a three consecutive day period of olfactory testing and were questioned as to how much the woman model weighed.

Predictability and State of the Art. As it stands, while the art recognizes and has demonstrated that odorants have an effect on perceived quality of inanimate objects, impressions of others, and perception of size or external space by humans, as well as psychological, social and sexual effects on human beings, there is no known method of

modifying perception of body weight comprising administering effective amounts of a composition comprising a hedonically positive mixture of a floral odorant and a spice odorant such when inhaled by a first person the first person perceives the body weight of a second person to be 5-10% less than the actual weight of the second person. It should be noted that Applicant's premise for inducing a perception of weight reduction in person is predicated on the idea that society, as a whole, perceives a thinner body image as being more attractive than overweight subjects. This premise is specifically directed to the idea that men deem thinner women to be more attractive than obese women and that women generally perceive their social attractiveness or self-image in terms of how others perceive her weight. Given the foregoing, Applicant further urges that women understanding that those believing that she is overweight will try to attempt to project the visual image of thinness. While Applicant's premise may apply to some sectors of the population, this is not true in all societies or ethnic backgrounds. For example, Miller et al. (Miller, K. J. et al. International Journal of Eating Disorders (4/2000); 27(3): 310-6. Comparisons of body image dimensions by race/ethnics and gender in a university population.) teaches, "Some research suggests that, among African-Americans, the ideal body size is larger than amount European Americans and that size is less salient in judging attractiveness." (See page 311, second paragraph). Miller further teaches that while less research has been conducted among the Hispanic population, Guatemalan college women felt better about their bodies and were less concerned about their weight than their counterpart European American white college females, despite the fact that appearance was equally important to both groups. (See

page 311, third paragraph). In a study comparing the affective and cognitive components of body image related to physical appearance, weight and health among three racial/ethnic groups, Miller reports that a pattern of racial/ethnic and gender differences exist between men and women of African American, European American and Latino/a American racial/ethnic groups. Applicant's disclosure fails to consider these differences among men and women of different racial/ethnic backgrounds and how these differences would affect the claim-designated method for modifying perception of body weight in those men and women having a positive self-image of body weight considered by European Americans as less than attractive. Most important nowhere in the specification does Applicant indicate whether the males tested were queried as to what was the ideal weight of attractive women. Even more important, nowhere in the specification did Applicant disclose what was the self-body image of the woman weighing 245 pounds before the testing or whether the odorant/odorant mixtures affected a sense of well-being or a perceived weight-reducing effect in the woman such that she had a better feeling about herself. Despite Applicant's apparent omission that the claimed method would not be operable is modifying a woman's perception of body weight in other subjects, the claims broadly read on a method of modifying weight perception in all sectors of the population. See <http://pherolibrary.com/forum/showthread.php?t=6442>. (V).

Amount of Experimentation Necessary. Thus contrary to Applicant arguments, the quantity of experimentation necessary to carry out the claimed invention is high, as the skilled artisan could not rely on the limited guidance of the specification, the prior art

to teach how to make and/or use the instantly claimed method for modifying perception of body weight comprising administration of an effective amount of hedonically positive mixture of the claim-designated floral odorant(s) and the claim-designated spice odorant(s).

In view of the breadth of the claims and the lack of guidance provided by the specification and limited number of working examples, as well as the unpredictability of the art, it would take undue experimentation without a reasonable expectation of success for the skilled artisan to make and/or use the instantly claimed method.

No claims are allowed.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michele Flood whose telephone number is 571-272-0964. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terry McKelvey can be reached on 571-272-0775. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michele Flood
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1655

MCF
January 4, 2009

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